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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11 IGA-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /159 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES:DTM
APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNS
EA/TB:JDEXTER (DRAFT)
SA/C:GKAMENS (DRAFT)
SA/PPB:WDOODY (DRAFT)
OSD/ISA:COL.AMOS
USDA/EMS:RSHEGOGUE (SUBS)
---------- 071814
O P 262252Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
COMUSSAG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192029

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB
SUBJECT: RICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CAMBODIA

REF: PHNOM PENH 10234

1. SEPTEL AUTHORIZING 20,000 TONS KOREAN RICE TO CAMBODIA FOLLOWS. WILL ALSO ADVISE SEPARATELY ON PL-480 RICE PROGRAMMING.

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2. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS RE RICE

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SITUATION. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT BEFORE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO MASSIVE AIRLIFT OF RICE, WE MUST DETERMINE WHETHER EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT OF KOREAN AND THAI RICE CAN BE EFFECTED. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY BANGKOK SHOULD MOVE URGENTLY TO EXPEDITE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SHIPMENT OF THAI RICE AND ADVISE US IMMEDIATELY OF PROSPECTS FOR PROMPT SHIPMENT. (WE RECALL THAT LOADING WAS TO HAVE STARTED ON SEPT. 20. WE ESTIMATE THAT IF RICE IS LOADED AT ONCE IT COULD PROCEED TO PHNOM PENH EITHER WITH SPECIAL CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR END OF SEPTEMBER OR WITH NEXT REGULAR CONVOY. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT BOO IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN EXPEDITING SHIPPING ARRANGEMENT. BANGKOK AND PHNOM PENH MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SHIPPING RICE FROM BANGKOK TO KOMPONG SOM FOR ONWARD ROAD OR WATER MOVEMENT TO PHNOM PENH, A ROUTING FOR WHICH IT MAY BE EASIER TO SECURE THAI SHIPPING.) ASSUME EMBASSY BANGKOK IS IN ADDITION ANSWERING QUESTION RAISED PARA 8A, REFTEL.

3. EMBASSY SEOUL IS ALSO REQUESTED TO ADVISE URGENTLY RE PROSPECT EARLY MOVEMENT OF KOREAN RICE.

4. FYI: AIR FORCE IS PREPARED TO LAUNCH AIRLIFT FROM BATTAMBANG ON SHORT NOTICE SHOULD SUPPLY LINES FROM THAILAND AND KOREA PROVE INADEQUATE. WE BELIEVE THAT AIRLIFT SHOULD BE LAST RESORT, HOWEVER, IN VIEW EXPENSE AND PROBLEMATIC PUBLIC REACTION TO UNDERTAKING OF THIS KIND. UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY WE WOULD PREFER NOT REPEAT NOT TO DRAMATIZE GKR'S RICE SUPPLY PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME. RUSH

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